

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed August 28, 2008 the Office noted that claims 1-20 were pending and rejected claims 1-4, 8-12 and objected to claims 5-7, 13-15 and 17-20. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-11, 14-16, 18 and 19 have been amended, claims 3, 6, 12, 13, 17 and 20 have been canceled, and, thus, in view of the foregoing claims 1, 4, 5, 7-11, 14-16, 18 and 19 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Office's rejections and objections are traversed below.

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claims 2 stand object to for informalities. In particular, the Office asserts that the claim is substantially a duplicate of claim 3. The Applicant has cancelled claim 3 and the claims dependent therefrom.

Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Office asserts that several phrases, "such as" and "of the type" render

the claims indefinite. The Applicant has amended the claims to remove those phrases which the Office finds indefinite.

Further, the Office asserts that claims 8-10 and 16 are missing essential steps. The Applicant has amended claims 8 and 16 to be dependent from claim 4 in conformity with the comments of the Office.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office has indicated that claims 5-7, 13-15 and 17-20 would be in a condition for allowance if re-written in independent form. The Applicant thanks the Office for the consideration given the claims and has amended claim 1 to include the features of claims 2 and 6. Claim 3 and its dependents have been cancelled. Thus, the Applicant submits that claim 1 and its dependents are in a condition for allowance.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or 102(e) as being anticipated by Doudement, U.S. Patent No. 5,186,307 as well as Kontz, U.S. Patent No. 4,223,778 and PCT document WO 02/36466.

The Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 6 which the Office has held allowable and intervening claim 2. Thus, the Applicant submits that the claims

as now recited are in a condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kontz in view of Fink, U.S. Patent No. 3,506,840.

The Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 6 which the Office has held allowable and intervening claim 2. Thus, the Applicant submits that the claims as now recited are in a condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, 102 and 103. It is also submitted that claims 1, 4, 5, 7-11, 14-16, 18 and 19 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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